

Terrorism:



**PREPARING
FOR THE
UNEXPECTED**

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Signal cafe gets facelift

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The Signal



News UPDATE

Town Hall meeting survey

Everyone is invited to log on to the Garrison's homepage and take the town hall meeting survey. It takes just a few minutes to complete and will provide invaluable information in scheduling the next meeting in March 2003. Your suggestions and comments are needed. Go to <http://www.gordon.army.mil/garrfp/default.htm>.

AFAP conference planned

Fort Gordon will host an installation-wide Army Family Action Plan conference **Wednesday and Thursday** at the Reserve Center. The two day conference will provide delegates (active duty, national guard, reserve, retired, Department of the Army civilians, contract employees and family members) with an opportunity to address quality of life issues. For more information, call Lynn C. Harshman, Community Readiness director, 791-2820.

Black History Month

African-American Black History Month is through **Feb. 28** and will recognize the accomplishments and achievements of African-Americans. The command program will be held in Alexander Hall, **Monday** at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Sgt 1st Class Gregory Pair at 791-2014/6657.

Women's History Month Program

The post command program for Women's History Month is **March 13** at Alexander Hall. The guest speaker for the program is Command Sgt. Major U.S. Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones. For more information, call the Equal Opportunity Office at 791-2014/6455.

Army Emergency Relief campaign kickoffs March 3

The Army Emergency Relief Campaign Kick Off and training for 2003 is scheduled for **March 3** in Olmstead Hall from 1:30 - 3 p.m. All unit project officers should plan to attend. AER Campaign brochures and allotment forms will be distributed to project officers at the training. The points of contact are Diane Sarber at 791-4544, or Joann Brassell 791-7878.

Volunteers needed

The Special Olympics are normally supported by the 93rd Signal Brigade. This year volunteers are sought to support the event, because of the 93rd's deployment. Three hundred volunteers are needed. For more information or to volunteer, call Master Sgt. John Boutte at 791-9841.

63rd Sig Bn ships out



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade

The "call" caught everyone by surprise especially during a four-day weekend, but after a flurry of personnel activity the 63rd Signal Battalion received a tear streaked, brass-band departure ceremony attended by more than 500 families, friends and fellow Lightning Warriors.

The 63rd Sig. Bn. received their flight date to the Central Command Area of Operations, 10-days earlier than projected, and began their departure from Fort Gordon's Gym #3 February 16.

The 63rd Sig. Bn. soldiers were alerted late Feb. 14 and told to attend a 5 a.m. formation.

Many of the soldiers had departed the area to visit with family members—some went as far as Florida.

At 5 a.m., Feb. 15, their leaders informed the soldiers of the new flight

date and several things had to be accomplished on that day.

Every soldier living in the barracks had to be completely moved out; their personal belongs crated and put into storage. Their privately owned vehicles annotated and secured in the vehicle holding area.

Both the soldiers living off and on post had to have their duffle bags put into one of several waiting Light Military Transport Vehicles.

Even though the soldiers and their families had been preparing for this moment for several months, there were very few dry faces at Gym #3 on Feb. 16.

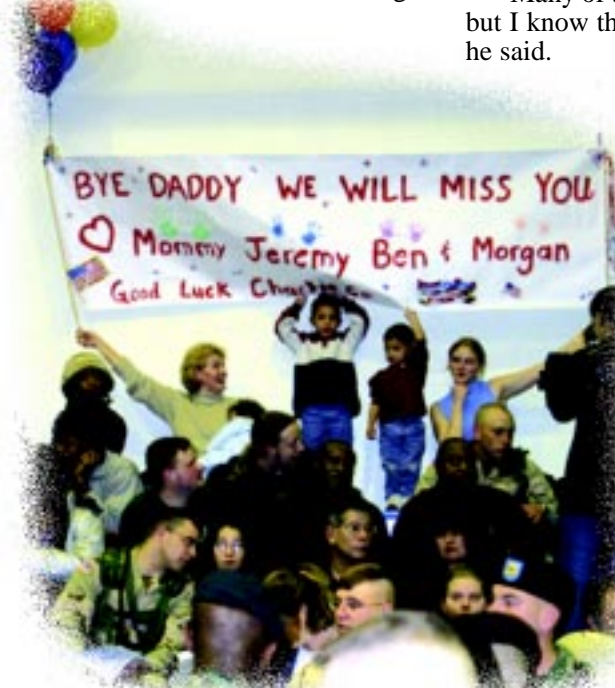
"This is what we've been training to do," said Sgt. 1st Class David Boone, B Co. 63rd Sig. Bn., cable platoon, platoon sergeant.

Boone has deployed to Korea three times and has done a routine tour in Kuwait.

"Many of the soldiers are worried, but I know they will do a good job," he said.

See 63rd, Page 2

(Left) Trying to keep his composure a 63rd Sig. Bn. NCO says goodbye to his baby. (Right) Sherry Lemons, 93rd Sig. Bde., command secretary, holds granddaughter Morgan and shows her affection for the deploying 63rd Sig. Bn. with her grandchildren, Jeremy and his little brother Ben Nix.



Departure always tough on family

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Before the start of Sunday's departure ceremony for the 63rd Signal Battalion, Tamara Rutt was full of smiles.

She stood by as her husband, Lt. Col. John Rutt, commander of the 63rd Signal Battalion, gave television interviews; however, as the ceremony began, her countenance began to change.

Mrs. Rutt wiped tears from her eyes as she watched her husband and the men and women of his battalion prepare to leave for the Middle East.

"It's like déjà vu," said Mrs. Rutt, who was there a decade ago as her husband headed to the Persian Gulf to participate in Desert Storm. During the Gulf War, her husband was a company commander.

There were many tears shed at Sunday's departure ceremony in Fort Gordon's Gym 3. Children cried as they hugged their fathers goodbye; husbands and wives clung close together.

Mrs. Rutt said she was reassured that her husband would be in good hands.

"We just want to get him home safely," she said.

While members of the 63rd had known since late last month they would be leaving for the Middle East and had already been preparing, they weren't sure of their exact departure until Valentine's Day. The week leading up to their departure was

very hectic, said Lt. Col. Rutt.

During the ceremony, Col. Daniel M. Gerstein, commander of the 93rd Signal Brigade of which the 63rd is a part, thanked those who packed into the gym on short notice on a cold and rainy evening.

"This is a fitting way to honor these soldiers," he said.

Among the dignitaries were Augusta Mayor Bob Young, who presented the unit with an Augusta flag to fly while they are in the Middle East.

In a short speech, Gerstein encouraged the troops.

"You have great morale, energy and spirit," he said, adding they truly lived up to their motto of "Proud and Ready."

He promised them their families would be taken care of as they were serving their country in the fight against terrorism.

"You will remain in our hearts and prayers," he said.

As the 63rd's flag was put into its case, soldiers watched, standing tall. Then on command, they turned and filed through the open gym door to waiting buses, which would take them to the Augusta Regional Airport where they would await their flight, which in 22 hours would take them to the other side of the world.

Those in the crowd cheered and applauded and the Signal Corp band played tunes such as the theme from "Rocky" as the soldiers marched out of the gym.

And the band plays on....

MacDonald accepts baton from Mitchell in COC ceremony

Sp. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Cassidy Brown
Youth Challenge Academy

After four years at the helm of one of the Army's most well-known bands, Chief Warrant Officer John W. Mitchell has departed as commander 434th Signal Corps Army Band. Taking his place is first-time bandmaster, Warrant Officer W. Scott MacDonald. A change of command ceremony was held Feb. 10 at the Gordon Club.

Mitchell was bandmaster of the 434th Signal Corps Army Band, a band that had played for a combined audience of over a million people throughout the United States during his tenure. With Mitchell as director, the band played for 46 change-of-command ceremonies, and gave performances on historic and symbolic occasions of all kinds, including the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Ceremony in Savannah, Georgia, the Fourth of July concerts downtown, Christmas concerts, for the Special Operations Command in Florida, numerous concerts in Aiken, S.C., and for and with the Fort Stewart Band.

Among all these special concerts, Mitchell mentioned one show in particular that stuck out.

"The concert in Alexander Hall that we gave after Sept. 11



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

The 434th Signal Corps Army Band, (above) in a change of command ceremony, changed bandmasters Feb. 10. Chief Warrant Officer John Mitchell ended a four year stint as bandmaster. Warrant Officer W. Scott MacDonald assumed command as the band's new director.

brought a much-needed emotional release for the post and band," he said. "We desperately needed it."

Lt. Col. Jesse J. Goggins, Military Police Battalion commander, also credited the members of the band with their exceptional duties as soldiers following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The band is of exceptional quality," he said. "After Sept. 11,

the band not only maintained its musical mission, but also provided Quick Reaction Force, gate security and rover security for Signal Towers and Darling Hall. I understand that Chief Mitchell himself actually worked Gate 5."

After performing music for 35 years altogether, including

See Band, Page 3

News UPDATE

235th Signal Company to deploy

93rd Signal Brigade

The 235th Signal Company, a subordinate unit assigned to the 93rd Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, received orders Feb. 15 to deploy some of their assets to the Central Command Area of Operations on a date to be determined.

The 235th Sig. Co. is a strategic long-haul transmission company that installs theater-level satellite communications equipment to bring data, voice, and video tele-conferencing services to the combatant commander.

The 235th Sig. Co. has approximately 100 soldiers assigned.

Ranger Hall of Fame nominations sought

The 75th Ranger Regiment is seeking nominations from around the Army for 2003 induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Former Rangers are qualified if they are deceased or have been retired or separated from military service for at least three years. They must have fought in combat as a Ranger or must be a graduate of the Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga.

Nomination packets should include a summary of the nominee's Ranger career, nominee's biography, a mailing address and telephone number for the nominee or the nominee's closet living relative, and an 8 inch by 10 inch glossy photograph of the nominee. Deadline for receiving nominations is **March 3**. For individuals in TRADOC who nominate former Rangers for the Hall of Fame, mail nominations to:

HQ TRADOC

ATBO-BPP 5C Northgate Rd.
Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1248

Master Sgt. David Landers is the point of contact for the nominations. Call him at 757-788-5081, DSN 680-5081 and his e-mail is landersdb@monroe.army.mil.

Women's Heritage Month luncheon

The Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course Class 31W 003-03 is sponsoring the Women's Heritage Month program. The 2003 theme is "Women Pioneering the Future." The program will be 11:30 a.m. **March 7** at the Gordon Club. The program includes poetry reading and a fashion show. Guest speaker for the event is Command Sgt. Althea Dixon, Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Luncheon menu includes: chicken, beef and vegetables. Tickets are \$10. There will be a drawing for a door prize for those attending. For more information, call 790-3676 ext. 4207.

Correction:

In the photo on page 2A of the Feb. 14 issue of *The Signal* the group pictured should be identified as the Color Guard of the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution who traveled from all over the state to participate in the Kettle Creek Commemoration.

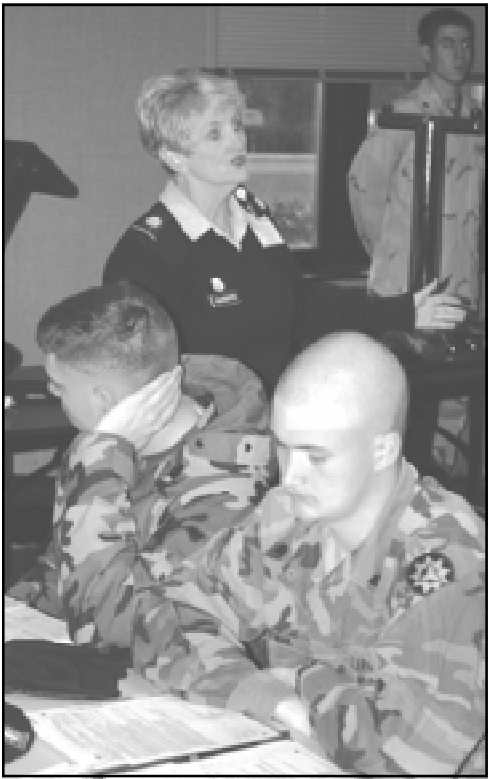


Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Above: Lt. Col. Mary Sanders, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, community health nurse, briefs soldiers on the dangers of smallpox at the SRP.

Soldier Readiness Program

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Battalion PAO

More than 400 63rd Signal Battalion soldiers participated in their final troop Soldier Readiness Program Feb. 10-13 at Fort Gordon's Darling Hall.

The purpose of the final SRP is to ensure that the soldiers' medical and personnel records are up to date and certified. While the exact date of their deployment was uncertain the final SRP can only be conducted 30-days prior to departure.

Many of the 63rd Sig. Bn. soldiers said they were anxious to "get the ball rolling."

"We've been packing and training for this deployment for some time and we're ready ...

I mean we can't pack anymore," said Sgt. Joseph Sigmund, Headquarters Company 63rd Sig. Bn., food service NCO.

There were about 13 stations that the soldiers had to complete before being certified for deployment, said 1st Lt. Quintina Smiley, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., assistant adjutant.

"The SRP is important because it ensures that the soldiers and their non-deploying family members' personal issues are in order before departure," said Smiley.

If soldiers receive a "No-Go" at a station then they would have to correct the deficiency and return to the final out station for validation, said Smiley.

For instance, at the legal sta-

tion a legal representative would request to verify a married soldier's Will. If the soldier didn't have one in place then he/she could complete one on site.

"Not every soldier is going to remember everything they need to have in order, for a deployment," said Sgt. 1st Class Frank Griffin, HHC 63rd Sig. Bn., operations NCOIC. "We can't just take their word either. We use the SRP to inform them of the things they may need to get to their families now while the soldier is here, so if a problem develops later the families will be prepared."

Quality of life incentives, like the SRP, have been designed to take care of one of the militaries most important assets—the military family.

63rd

From Page 1

The scene at the departure ceremony: excited young children, wearing dessert camouflaged Kevlar helmets, tangled themselves around their crying mothers legs; desert combat uniform clad men and women gently stroked their spouses arm in an effort to console them; visiting mothers and fathers, with red-rimmed eyes, attempted to look cheerful for their DCU clad sons and daughters. All the while the Fort Gordon Signal Band gently played background orchestra music.

Tears flowed steadily as the 63rd Sig. Bn. guidon was sheathed—officially declaring

their departure.

"Right Face," shouted Lt. Col. John Rutt, 63rd Sig. Bn., battalion commander. "Forward, March."

The soldiers marched out of the gym and boarded the awaiting buses.

The buses streaked toward the airport, surrounded by the flashing blue lights of the Richmond County Police Department squad cars.

There was no brass band or tear streaked spouses waving goodbye as the 63rd Sig. Bn. soldiers boarded the plane but nevertheless the soldiers said they were eager to begin this deployment.



Right: A mixture of anxiety and apprehension prevailed as the 63rd Sig. Bn. soldiers boarded the plane. They said they were eager to get their mission started.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Chief Warrant Officer John Mitchell led the band at 46 change of command ceremonies and for a multitude of other occasions.

Band

From Page 1

playing the tuba for 10 years in the Army, Mitchell was selected for bandmaster training. When he received his certification, Mitchell assumed command of 434th Army Band in August of 1999. It was there that he impressed many with his talent and the way he dealt with his band.

"He is one of the only, if not

the only perfectionist that I like," Goggins said.

With an audience of about fifty people, including the Fort Gordon upper chain of command, as well as the Mayor of Grovetown, Mitchell spoke well of his former band and ensured all of continuous outstanding concerts and many more memories. Mitchell thanked all who were there to support him and his band members throughout the years, including his wife, Nancy, and his two young children, Kevin and Karyann, who

were also present at the ceremony.

"From the support that the community and the post gave... it was obvious how much they thought of the band," Mitchell said, "Anything that anyone said nice about me today, was because of them (the band members)."

Mitchell and his family will be moving on to Manheim, Germany, to become leader of the Fifth Corps Band. It will be his second time with the band, as he played tuba with the band ten years ago.

For MacDonald, the incoming band director, leading the Signal Corps band completes "a life-time long goal to become a band leader."

"Being a conductor is the realization of a lifelong ambition," MacDonald, who had played the trumpet for 31 years prior to becoming a director, said.

MacDonald said directing the Signal Band is especially satisfying because of the high level of regard the band is held in by soldiers throughout the

Army.

"Throughout the entire Army, everyone knows about the Signal Corps Band," he said.

MacDonald said he sees carrying on with the high standards Mitchell brought to the band and upholding its respectable reputation throughout the Army as some of his major objectives.

"He did a great job as director and will be a tough act to follow," MacDonald said. "I hope to continue all the good things he's done with the band, as well as add some of my own."

Wall of honor will pay tribute

Denise Allen
Staff writer

As part of his duties as Augusta's Mayor, Bob Young attends many ceremonies, groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings.

However, there were other reasons his wife, Gwen Fulcher Young, insisted he attend a ceremony at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center's

downtown division on Feb. 10.

"It's not easy to surprise him," said Mrs. Young after the unveiling of a Wall of Honor wooden sculpture in the hospital's lobby.

The six-foot by six-foot sculpture dedicated to veterans and their advocates bears brass plates for people to purchase in honor or memory of someone. Mrs.

Young bought one of the first brass plates and had her husband's name engraved upon it.

Mayor Young is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Hospital employees decided they needed a way to pay an everlasting tribute to those who made contributions to the hospital, said Janice Kennedy, chief of patient advocacy and com-

munity resources department.

Hospital officials enlisted a New Jersey artist, Sanford Werfel, to design the piece.

It needed to be "very patriotic, honor veterans and their advocates in a dignified manner," she said.

"He did a great job."

Donations to the hospital's Wall of Honor will benefit several of the

hospital's programs including hospice, homeless veterans, blind rehabilitation, Alzheimer's nursing homes and its medical and surgical care units.

For a donation of \$300 to \$499, a "friend" will receive a brass plate on the large star sculpture; a "patriot" receives four lines on a five-inch brass engraved star for a contribution of \$500 to

\$999; and a "patriot" receives four lines on a nine-inch brass engraved star for a donation of \$1,000 and above.

The five-inch and nine-inch stars will be placed on the wall around the large star.

For more information, call 731-7208 or mail donations to the VA Medical Center, 1 Freedom Way, 119U, Augusta 30904-6285.

2,000+ soldiers stabilize their high school seniors

Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Almost 2,200 military families have joined the stabilization program for soldiers with high school senior students.

Officially called "Stabilization for Soldiers — High School Seniors," the program began in April 2001. It allows those soldiers to extend their tour of duty at their current duty station for an additional year so a family member can graduate from their school.

As of Feb. 6, 2003, the Army's Personnel Command had approved stabi-

lization requests for 1,826 enlisted soldiers, disapproved four and had 20 requests pending. On the officer side, 353 were approved, six disapproved and two requests were pending. For enlisted soldiers that's a 99.8 percent approval rate and 98.3 percent for officers.

"In my book, that is a success," said Col. Julie Manta, Training and Doctrine Command adjutant general. "This is a super initiative by the Army leadership to stabilize families. That's a key component of Army Well Being, to provide some stability and pre-

dictability for family members."

Soldiers who have children in high school must request stabilization from PERSCOM before their children begin their high school junior year.

The request is made on a DA Form 4187. A soldier must list known scheduled temporary duty for a training course and other purposes.

"Officers need to contact their branch assignment officers if they are scheduled for training at the end of their current tours," Manta said. "That will tell the branch that the

training requirement may have to be deferred."

Soldiers overseas must indicate they will extend their tours there if the request is approved.

A letter from the high school, stating when the student is expected to graduate from the school, must be attached to the DA Form 4187.

The program is spelled out in Military Personnel Message Number 01-135. It is on the PERSCOM web site at www.perscom.army.mil. Select the AG page and the list of MILPER messages can be found there.

"When soldiers requests are approved, that does not preclude them from being deployed or being alerted for deployment," Manta said. "But at least families members do not have to suffer the additional disruption of having to move while the soldier mothers or fathers are deployed."

She said PERSCOM does not track approval rates by major command.

"That's because assignments are made as individual replacements."

PERSCOM has said that 48 percent of enlisted soldiers who have received approval are sergeants

first class.

"That sounds right," Manta said. "Many soldiers in that rank are old enough to have children in high school. I suspect that on the officer side, mostly field grade officers request stabilization for a family member of high school age."

The stabilization program was one of the 10 top recommendations from a July 2000 Army Education Summit. Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff, approved it in time for it to take effect the following April.

Veteran gets SF tab 30 years later

Army News Service

Thirty years after he last served as a Special Forces soldier, Pete Shoars Sr. was presented with a Special Forces tab Feb. 10.

Shoars, 54, is now a civilian employee at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va. He will wear the tab, though, on his uniform as an officer in the Virginia Defense Force, a volunteer organization that supports the Virginia National Guard during mobilizations and disasters.

Shoars enlisted April 11, 1967. After he completed air-

borne school at Fort Benning, Ga., he volunteered and qualified for Special Forces, a small and relatively new component of the Army.

"After finishing my three phases of training, I earned the flash for my beret. I was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group," Shoars said. "Being in SF gave me a chance to see a lot of the world that I only dreamed about seeing. I tell most people that I grew up in Iowa, but became a man in the Army."

Shoars served in several

overseas assignments during his three-year enlistment.

"The tab wasn't an official part of the uniform until October 1983," said Lt. Col. Dave Maxwell the Special Forces branch chief at PERSCOM. Special Forces became a branch in 1987.

"Pete came to me a few months ago to ask if I thought his prior service qualified him to wear the Special Forces tab. We forwarded his records to Fort Bragg and the proponent; he qualified," Maxwell said.

Other Special Forces vet-

erans received the tab following their service in the branch. Retired Col. Roger Donlon, the first Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient was a captain in 1964. Donlon commanded Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a Viet Cong battalion attacked the camp. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson in 1965.

"The Special Forces tab was presented to me at a Fort Bragg Special Forces banquet in April 1999," said Donlon. "It came as a complete surprise

at the end of my guest speaker presentation."

Donlon added that wearing the tab permits him to show his pride and gives him the opportunity to inspire others to also become "quiet professionals."

Wearing the tab is important to Shoars because he again wears the Army uniform. He is currently a first lieutenant and chaplain in the 3rd Brigade of the Virginia Defense Force.

The Virginia Defense Force, organized in 1985, supports total or partial mo-

bilization of Virginia Army National Guard units activated for federal duty and responds with the Virginia Guard units in state disaster situations.

"It still takes a little getting used to being an officer," Shoars said before the ceremony.

Shoars has earned a doctorate of Theology, a doctorate of Counseling and a doctorate in Education since leaving active duty.

Shoars' son, Peter Jr., is a specialist in Military Intelligence.

Rumsfeld says U.S. will stand by Afghans, would do the same for Iraqis

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told an audience of civic and business leaders that the U.S. remains steadfast to its promise to aid Afghanistan's stability.

And he said experiences in Afghanistan could apply to a post-Saddam Iraq.

"Let me be clear," he said, "No matter whatever else happens in the world, we will not abandon Afghanistan. Afghanistan remains an important ally, not only in the war against terrorism, but in that larger struggle for freedom and moderation in the Muslim world."

Rumsfeld made those remarks at a black tie dinner of the Intrepid Freedom Foundation, where he also received the Intrepid Freedom Award, the foundation's highest honor. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, who heads up U.S. Central Command and was last year's recipient, presented the award.

In a speech often interrupted by applause, Rumsfeld told the audience

that the results of the terrorist attack on America actually helped liberate the Afghan people and transform their country.

"Before Sept. 11, Afghans lived in fear. Freedom to them was but a distant dream — today they are free," Rumsfeld said. "Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for terrorists, girls and boys are back in school, and over 1 million refugees are back at home. This is a remarkable transformation," he added.

Much of that transformation is because of U.S. support, Rumsfeld said, including an investment of some \$850 million for reconstruction in Afghanistan and another \$3.3 billion pledged over the next four years. That investment has included the United States assistance to the Afghan national army.

Rumsfeld said that U.S. strategy in the war in Afghanistan was never to occupy to country. "From the onset of the war, our guiding principle has been that Afghanistan belongs to the Afghans. The United States does not aspire to

own it or run it," he said.

For example, he said the U.S. did not send a massive invasion force to occupy the country, but instead teamed with coalition and Afghan forces that opposed Taliban rule. As part of the military campaign, U.S. Air Force planes dropped thousands of leaflets over the country that carried the message that America was not coming as a force of occupation but as a force of liberation, the secretary noted. "As a result we did not alienate the Afghan people," he added.

The same philosophy would apply if the United States were to lead an international coalition against Iraq, Rumsfeld stated. He emphasized that President Bush has yet to make any decision on the use of force in Iraq. But "the same principles would hold true, that Iraq belong to the Iraqis," he said.

"We'd hope to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and liberate the Iraqi people," Rumsfeld continued. He said that America's commitment in

Iraq would be to stay as long as necessary, but leave as soon as possible.

Furthermore, he said the U.S. would work with coalition partners, just as they have in Afghanistan, to help the Iraqi people establish their own new government in "a single country free of weapons of mass destruction."

Rumsfeld said the Pentagon is looking at post-war planning for an Iraqi government. The secretary said the process would be made easy with solid infrastructure already in place in Iraq: working road networks and resources such as oil that will provide the Iraqi people the means to get back on their feet.

He also refuted rumors spread among the Iraqi people that the United States seeks war with their country because of oil and even, as some believe, religion.

"(The Iraqis) are being told lies, that the U.S. wants to take their oil. This is utter nonsense," Rumsfeld said. "This has nothing to do with oil in my modest opinion. He re-

counted how history and the facts have documented America's respected work with other countries in the Middle East and the Balkans with Muslim populations.

Responding to a media question on North Korea's threat to the United States, Rumsfeld said nuclear weapons are a "real threat to the world."

Rumsfeld said terrorist states are in the process of making a good deal of progress toward having a variety of ranges of ballistic missiles as well as a nuclear program. "What they need in many instances is the nuclear material," Rumsfeld said, pointing to North Korea as the world's leading proliferator of missile technologies.

"What that means is that the world we are living in in the next five to 10 years could end up with another four, five or six countries with nuclear weapons, several of which are on the terrorist state list. That would be a notably different world than the world we're living in."

The Intrepid Freedom

Award is presented to leaders who have distinguished themselves by promoting and defending the values of freedom and democracy. Past winners have included Secretary of State Colin Powell and Vice President Richard Cheney.

Prior to receiving the award, Rumsfeld said that he and the aircraft carrier Intrepid, now moored at a New York pier and serving as a museum drawing more than 600,000 visitors annually, share much in common.

"She was commissioned into naval service in the middle of the 20th century — and so was I. She went on to serve the Navy in various capacities for more than three decades — and so have I. She retired from government service in the late 1970s but she was brought back from the scrap yard — and so was I."

Rumsfeld concluded that the Intrepid is living proof "that a couple of broken down Navy vessels can still strive to serve this great country."



Courtesy photo

Signal officer candidates branched

Candidates George Lessard, Marcelo Tealdi, Jose Diaz and Leslie Parker were branched as Signal officers. Capt. Kevin Litwhiler, project manager, Battle Space Lab, at the U.S. Army Infantry School branched four officer candidates into the Signal Corps in a ceremony held at the U.S. Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 23. After graduating from Officer Candidate School they were commissioned in February and are attending the Signal Officer Basic Course at Fort Gordon.

Retiree Notes:

Don't miss the deadline for scholarship

Richard T. Lechnir
Retirement Services Officer

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund, administered by Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief, helps Army families with the costs of post secondary, undergraduate level education, vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for their dependent children. Funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, supplies and room/board. Applicants must be dependent children, step-children, or legally adopted children of Army soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while on active duty or retirement. Applicants must also be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, unmarried for the entire academic year, and under the age of 22 years on June 11. Applications are available

online by accessing the Army Community Service website www.gordon.army.mil/acs and clicking on the link to AER Education Program. Completed applications with all supporting documentation must be mailed to AER Headquarters and postmarked not later than the deadline of March 3. For additional information, contact Army Community Service at 791-3579.

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (Feb. 15) Col. George "Bud" Day, Medal of Honor recipient, led nearly 1,500 WWII/Korea military retirees in a Feb 12 demonstration and march in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this event was to bring congressional and public attention to the breach of contract by the U.S. government in taking military retiree earned healthcare. Military retirees, widows, supporters and friends gathered from as distant as South Korea

to emphasize what many view as a dishonorable action by the U.S. government in taking promised medical care from the "greatest generation" who served in harm's way repeatedly. They came on buses, trains, planes, private vehicles, some in wheel chairs, scooters, with canes and crutches pulling oxygen, but with an honorable zeal to hold our government accountable.

Col. Day, Senator John McCain, and Congressmen Jeff Miller Mark Foley, among others, spoke during formal ceremonies. Both Day and McCain are former POWs and cell mates in North Viet Nam. The week of Feb. 10 began the 30th Anniversary of North Vietnam POW release and found both former POWs fighting together again for a different release. This time they were, to include Congressmen Miller and Foley, advocating the power of the

courts, legislature, and Executive branches of the US Government to honor the contract made with WWII/Korea era military retirees and provide government funds necessary to remedy the illegal taking of earned medical care from this group of warriors.

Day challenged the U.S. government in 1996 in a lawsuit that seeks only what was promised and earned, nothing more - restoration of free medical care for WWII/Korea military retirees. There have been a series of pro and con court decisions with the latest agreeing with the government that promises made by the government were without statutory backing. Day respectfully disagrees with the court.

The U.S. District Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C., on Nov. 18, 2002, while

The Advocate

Former Pentagon employee sentenced to three years in prison for misuse of government purchase card

Office of Staff Judge Advocate

A federal court sentenced a former employee to 37 months of imprisonment and ordered her to pay \$1.7 million restitution. She stole government property stemming from her use of a government purchase card to make over \$1,711,000 of fictitious purchases from a Seattle firm.

She used the card to make about 522 false purchases of goods and services for the Pentagon's Graphics and Presentations Division from a Seattle company created by her co-schemer solely to facilitate the fraud.

No goods or services were ever delivered to the Defense Department from the Seattle company for any of the purported sales charged to the government purchase card.

Shared proceeds with co-conspirator

She split the department's payments with her Seattle co-schemer who delivered her share in the form of cash and cashier's checks.

In order to conceal the fictitious purchases, she created false invoices, which she provided to auditors from the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General. In one instance, she submitted false invoices from the Seattle company for graphics and artwork for the Pentagon Family Assistance Center.

The PFAC was created to provide counseling and support to victims and survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon.

She created fraudulent invoices which falsely billed over \$136,000 for "biography boards" pertaining to victims of the Pentagon attack, as well as graphic support for the Oct. 11, 2001 Pentagon Memorial service.

apologetic in their decision, admitted and recognized that the promises had been made to WWII/Korea retirees in good faith by military recruiters, commanders, up to the highest levels of government, documented in government policy statements and regulations, and accepted in good faith by military members, but according to the Federal Appeals Court written and verbal medical promises were made without authority. Again, Day disagrees. The court

urged Congress to remedy the "moral" obligation to the military population involved which is already emphasized in addition to the U.S. Supreme Court review.

On Jan. 24, Day appealed the Nov. 18, 2002, Federal Circuit Court of Appeals decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Harry Riley, Class Act Group for Robert Reinlie, William Schism, Plaintiff's and attorney Col. George "Bud" Day, MOH. 850-664-6324/5139

73rd trains to fight

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Josh Pieczynski
Youth Challenge Academy

A group of advanced individual training students in the 35J MOS learned how to survive and perform their job in field conditions during a field training exercise conducted by the 73rd Ordnance Battalion last week.

Besides doing their job as computer repairmen in the field the soldiers also underwent non-related job skills for field survival. The situations soldiers encountered included reacting to both an ambush, indirect fire, and nuclear biological chemical attack, setting up defenses and keeping their perimeter secure, Capt. Patrick Evans, FTX officer in charge said.

"I hope they learn what they can and soak up as much knowledge as they can in this field experiment in the next three days," he added.

"If anything were to happen to us this is for our benefit, to prepare us," Pvt. Janelle Sosinski, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, an AIT student who graduated basic training in October said.

The training that was being conducted was done in compliance with TRADOC regulations, which state a student must have a minimum of 72 hours field training before they graduate AIT. Sgt. Maj. Charles Allen Sr., sergeant major for the Ordnance Electronic Maintenance Training Department, said.

Allen said the exercises provide students with a positive change of pace from the classroom.

"Our soldiers told us they were ecstatic about it; it's a welcome break from the classroom to the field," Allen said.

Towering above the others: Company A, 551st Sig Bn leads successful drive

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

January was National Blood Donor Month, and A Company, 551st Signal Battalion was ready to rally for a good cause.

The company organized and executed the first blood drive held in Signal Towers in several years on Jan. 16.

Even though some soldiers were unable to donate because of ineligibility due to deployments, the drive was a great success, with 73 potential donors signing in to contribute more than 50 pints of blood. Most notable among the donors was U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding

General Brigadier General Jan Hicks, who was one of the first donors to give a pint of blood. A mix of soldiers and civilians from throughout post chipped in for the other 49 units.

The drive was a concerted effort between soldiers from Company A and the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, the official blood donor center on post. All the blood donated in the drive went to benefit other soldiers, more specifically those deployed overseas and in need of blood.

A special incentive offered by Company A commander Kenneth Anderson of a day off before the training holiday may have convinced some reluctant donors to

spare a pint of blood for a good cause.

Overall, 59 units of platelets and 525 units of red blood were gathered by Kendrick Memorial Blood Center during National Blood Donor Month.

As Kendrick blood donor recruiter Erin Hamblin pointed out, there is always a shortage of blood and although the drive was a success, the need for blood is continuous.

The next blood drive hosted by the 551st Signal Battalion will be held over Memorial Day Weekend. Plans are in the works to make it a very festive event, with the goal to gather as many donors as possible.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Company A, 551st Signal Battalion Company Commander Capt. Kenneth Anderson (left), holds the Kendrick Memorial Blood Donor Trophy with the company first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Edgar Moon. It was the first time a permanent party company beat out a student company for the trophy.

ACS's Exceptional Family Member Program never turns anyone away

Spc. Zoe Morris
News editor

Fort Gordon's Army Community Service makes no exception when it comes to helping the members of the Exceptional Family Member Program.

"I never turn anyone away," Mavis Crowell, Exceptional Family Member Program manager, said. "I always find someone (soldiers) can call to get the information they need."

The EFMP is a Department of the Army program for family members of soldiers who have any chronic medical or special education needs, and Crowell's job is to connect soldiers with exceptional family members with resources in the community.

"If a soldier is looking for a specific support group, I can provide them with a list of support groups in the community," she said. "I can find any thing - day care (providers) for children with special needs, summer camps for children with special needs."

But children aren't the only people who fall under the program. Crowell said that anyone who lives with the soldier is eligible.

"If your 84 year-old step-grandmother lives with you, she needs to be enrolled in the program," Crowell said. "Needs" is the key word. Under Army regulation, every soldier

with an eligible family member needs to enroll them in EFMP.

"During the assignment process, DA will consider the needs of the family member when making an assignment," Crowell said. "That is the number one reason that a soldier would want to enroll the family member in the program."

"The four most common conditions at Fort Gordon are asthma, attention deficit disorder, attention hyperactivity disorder and developmental delays," Crowell said.

By enrolling family members in the program, a soldier can find out about seminars, classes, support groups and other resources to help deal with and maybe even fix the issue.

"I had a mother come in with a child who has Down's syndrome," Crowell said. "There's a Down's syndrome support group that I referred her to."

"A person will get an answer to anything they come here for," she said.

The EFMP holds events on post every month. EFMP Bowling is every third Monday. There is also a Parent Information Exchange meeting every month.

"We spotlight agencies from the community to come out here and talk to our parents about the services they have available," Crowell said.

For more information about EFMP, call Crowell at 787-2247.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Terrorism: Preparing for the unexpected

Tips for surviving a terrorist attack

With top U.S. officials warning that the country is at high risk of terrorist attacks, Americans—especially federal employees—are being urged to be especially vigilant and prepared to react in the event of an attack.

There is no magic formula that guarantees protection from acts of terrorism, especially if they involve radiation, toxic chemicals or germ warfare. But there are steps anyone can take to reduce the risks.

In general...

Do what you're told. If there's an announcement over TV or radio, or if a firefighter, police officer, or other official tells you to do something, just do it. A crisis is no time to second-guess the one group of people with the expertise and equipment to know what's actually going on. Their specific instructions should take precedence over general guides such as this one.

If you're warned of an explosion...

Duck and cover. Get away from windows and behind something solid. Then curl up to protect your face and eyes.

If you're outside and you hear an explosion, or if you see people choking or collapsing...

- Cover your nose and mouth. The big danger with most toxic substances is inhaling them. Even thin fabrics—a handkerchief, scarf, or shirt—will reduce your chance of inhaling radioactive particles, many chemical and biological agents, and the choking dust that ordinary bombs produce.

- Move away at an angle. If you're downwind of the attack, something dangerous may be drifting toward you. Since you can't outrun the wind, the way to get out of its path is to go sideways to the direction that it's blowing. Going around a corner will also put a building between you and the source of danger.

- Get inside. Find an intact, sturdy building and go in it. Modern buildings are fairly airtight and will keep out most toxic substances for some time.

- Strip and shower. If you actually were exposed to something toxic, most of it will have settled on your outer layer of clothing. Carefully take your outer garments off (ideally, shower with your clothes on first so they're safer to handle, then seal in a plastic bag and put them where no one will touch them.) Then shower or have someone hose you down, thoroughly but gently, to get the residue off your skin. **EXCEPTION:** A few toxic chemicals react dangerously with water; if anything strange happens, stop showering immediately.

If you're inside and the problem is outside...

- Close up. Closing doors and windows—and turning off air conditioners—will make most modern buildings reasonably airtight. That will keep most toxic substances from drifting in. If the windows are broken (say, by an explosion) or your part of the building is otherwise leaky, find an intact room to shelter in.

- Move away from windows. Just in case there's a second explosion, or a release of highly penetrating (gamma) radiation, you want to be behind a nice, solid wall.

- Stay put and watch TV. Keep an

eye out for official announcements over television and radio. Unless there is something obviously wrong with the building you're in (e.g., it's right next to where a toxic cloud is being released, or the windows are all blown out, or it's burning down), it's probably safer to stay put than to go outside. Wait for someone in authority to tell you when, how, and where to evacuate.

If you're inside and the problem is inside...

Get out. Because modern buildings are fairly airtight, a dangerous substance released inside one will stay dangerously concentrated. If people inside your building (or subway station) are choking and collapsing, or if the building is on fire, it's time to leave and head for another, safer shelter.

Devastating acts, such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, have left many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impact. They have raised uncertainty about what might happen next, increasing stress levels.

Nevertheless, there are things you can do to prepare for the unexpected and reduce the stress that you may feel now and later should another emergency arise. Taking preparatory action can reassure you and your children that you can exert a measure of control even in the face of such events.

What you can do to prepare

Finding out what can happen is the first step. Once you have determined the events possible and their potential in your community, it is important that you discuss them with your family or household. Develop a disaster plan together.

1. Create an emergency communications plan.

Choose an out-of-town contact your family or household will call or e-mail to check on each other should a disaster occur. Your selected contact should live far enough away that they would be unlikely to be directly affected by the same event, and they should know they are the chosen contact. Make sure every household member has that contact's, and each other's, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers (home, work, pager and cell). Leave these contact numbers at your children's schools, if you have children, and at your workplace. Your family should know that if telephones are not working, they need to be patient and try again later or try e-mail. Many people flood the telephone lines when emergencies happen but e-mail can sometimes get through when calls don't.

2. Establish a meeting place.

Having a predetermined meeting place away from your home will save time and minimize confusion should your home be affected or the area evacuated. You may even want to make arrangements to stay with a family member or friend in case of an emergency.

Be sure to include any pets in these plans, since pets are not permitted in shelters and some hotels will not accept them.

cept them.

3. Assemble a disaster supplies kit.

If you need to evacuate your home or are asked to "shelter in place," having some essential supplies on hand will make you and your family more comfortable. Prepare a disaster supplies kit in an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag or small plastic trash can. Include "special needs" items for any member of your household (infant formula or items for people with disabilities or older people), first aid supplies (including prescription medications), a change of clothing for each household member, a sleeping bag or bedroll for each, a battery powered radio or television and extra batteries, food, bottled water and tools. It is also a good idea to include some cash and copies of important family documents (birth certificates, passports and licenses) in your kit.

Copies of essential documents—like powers of attorney, birth and marriage certificates, insurance policies, life insurance beneficiary designations and a copy of your will—should also be kept in a safe location outside your home. For more complete instructions, ask your local Red Cross chapter for the brochure titled *Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit*.

4. Check on the school emergency plan of any school-age children you may have.

You need to know if they will they keep children at school until a parent or designated adult can pick them up or send them home on their own. Be sure that the school has updated information about how to reach parents and responsible caregivers to arrange for pickup. And, ask what type of authorization the school may require to release a child to someone you designate, if you are not able to pick up your child. During times of emergency the school telephones may be overwhelmed with calls.

For more information on putting together a disaster plan, request a copy of the brochure titled *Your Family Disaster Plan* from your local American Red Cross chapter. You may also want to request a copy of *Before Disaster Strikes . . . How to Make Sure You're Financially Prepared* for specific information on what you can do now to protect your assets.

If disaster strikes

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials.
- Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.

- If the disaster occurs near you, check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.

- If the disaster occurs near your home while you are there, check for damage using a flashlight. Do not light matches or candles or turn on electrical switches. Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.

quickly.

- Shut off any other damaged utilities.

- Confine or secure your pets.
- Call your family contact — do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

A word on what could happen

As we learned from the events of September 11, 2001, the following things can happen after a terrorist attack:

- There can be significant numbers of casualties and/or damage to buildings and the infrastructure. So employers need up-to-date information about any medical needs you may have and on how to contact your designated beneficiaries.
- Heavy law enforcement involvement at local, state and federal levels follows a terrorist attack due to the event's criminal nature.

- Health and mental health resources in the affected communities can be strained to their limits, maybe even overwhelmed.
- Extensive media coverage, strong public fear and international implications and consequences can continue for a prolonged period.

- Workplaces and schools may be closed, and there may be restrictions on domestic and international travel.
- You and your family or household may have to evacuate an area, avoiding roads blocked for your safety.
- Clean-up may take many months.

Evacuation

If local authorities ask you to leave your home, they have a good reason to make this request, and you should heed the advice immediately. Listen to your radio or television and follow the instructions of local emergency officials and keep these simple tips in mind:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and sturdy shoes so you can be protected as much as possible.
- Take your disaster supplies kit.
- Take your pets with you; do not leave them behind. Because pets are not permitted in public shelters, follow your plan to go to a relative's or friend's home or find a "pet-friendly" hotel.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities. Don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

Listen to local authorities

Your local authorities will provide you with the most accurate information specific to an event in your area. Staying tuned to local radio and television, and following their instructions is your safest choice.

If you're sure you have time:

- Call your family contact to tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive.
- Shut off water and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so. Leave natural gas service ON unless local officials advise you otherwise. You may need gas for heating and cooking, and only a professional can restore gas service in your home once it's been turned off. In a disaster situation it could take weeks for a professional to respond.

Editor's note: *The above information was compiled from an article by Sydney J. Freedberg Jr., National Journal and www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html.*

Feedback

Spc. Ryan Matson

How have you prepared for a possible terrorist attack?



"Making my family aware of what we may need to do if such a situation occurs."

Glenn Palmer
Communications and Electronics Command



"I've got emergency kits set up, and I've got water and food stored."

Norma Jackson
Family member



"I stay observant of my surroundings and situational awareness."

Senior Chief Lenni Day
Air Station Savannah
(Coast Guard)



"Nothing yet. I've been too busy helping my husband get ready for his deployment."

Maj. Patricia Rimby
Materiel Resources Division



"I try not to go off post in my BDU's. I stay away from crowded places, and I always keep my eyes open."

Sgt. Justic Cecil
Company A, 447th Signal Battalion

The Signal 

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Requests for use of information by other news organizations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office. Pictures not otherwise credited are official U.S. Army photographs. Army News Service and American Forces Information Service material is used. Opinions expressed are those of individuals, and are not to be considered those of the Department of the Army or its agencies.

Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

Community Events

Valentine Ball

The Philippine-American Association's Valentine Ball and Induction Ceremony will be in the Gordon Club on **Saturday** at 6 p.m. Congressman Max Burns of Georgia will be the guest speaker. The Philippine-American Association of CSRA is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit organization. This association was established in 1983 to promote Philippine heritage and cross-cultural understanding between other ethnic groups.

For more information, call Edna Hadloc at 793-2355 or Elsie Albrador at 772-9791.

Fort Discovery Home School Day

Home School educators and their students are invited to Fort Discovery's first Home School Day on **Monday**, from 1 – 5 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of activities while learning more about what's available for you as a home schooler. Discover how to use the science center as an effective learning resource and get the details about the many programming options that are available.

For more information about Fort Discovery's Home School Day, call Dr. Chip Schuster at 706-821-0206 or schuster@nscdiscovery.org.

Black History Month at EAMC

Eisenhower Army Medical Center celebrates Black History Month **Feb. 27** with a Command Program from 10 - 11 a.m. in the EAMC Auditorium.

Opening comments will be by the Commanding General of Eisenhower Army Medical Center Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker and the guest speaker is Rev. Eric Taylor, pastor and founder of Emmanuel Faith Tabernacle International Ministries.

For more information about these events, call Kathleen Haskell at 787-3400.

OWC scholarship

The Officers' Wives' Club is offering scholarships for those eligible. Applications are available for all those holding a military I.D. card.

Applications have been sent to counselors at all high schools and colleges and may also be picked up at the Education Center, Community Life Center and Thrift Shop.

Deadline for submission is **March 1**.

For more information, call Diana Plowman at 228-4271.

Civilian of the quarter nominations

Nominations for the Fort Gordon Civilian of the Quarter for the quarter ending March 31 must be submitted by close of business **March 17**.

The narrative should not exceed two pages. Nominations will be for GS 5-8, NA 8-15, NL 8-13, NS 6-11, WG 5-7, WL 4-6, WS 1-2 and NF 2-3.

Send the nomination to DHR, via e-mail, reidm@gordon.army.mil.

For more information, call Mary Reid at 791-3840.

EWC monthly meetings

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club's monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth **Wednesday** of each month in Building 40705, 41st Street. Everyone is welcome, including civilian employees working at Fort Gordon.

The annual membership drive will be held **March 26**, in honor of Women's History Month.

For more information call Linda Holden, 854-9387 or Rosemary Marshall, 791-2675.

Green to gold

Reserve Office Training Corps briefings will be presented by 2nd Lt. Eugene Irby III, in the

Education and Career Development Division, Building 21606 at 1 p.m. **Wednesday and March 5, 12, 19 and 26**. Limited seating available.

For more information, call 791-2000 to reserve a seat.

Women's History Month

The command program for "Women's History Month" is **March 13**, at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The guest speaker for the program is Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones.

For more information, call the Equal Opportunity Office at 791-2014/6455.

DSOY dinner

The First Annual Drill Sergeant of the Year Recognition Dinner will be **March 5**, in the Gordon Club at 6 p.m. Attending the dinner will be, the Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks and Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.

Ticket cost is \$20 per person. Dress is semi-formal and the general public is invited.

For more information or tickets call: Drill Sgt. Harry Ferguson at fergusoh@gordon.army.mil or 791-9095; Drill Sgt. Mariano Alvarez at alvarezm@gordon.army.mil or 791-6493; Drill Sgt. Anthony Ray at raya@gordon.army.mil or 791-1250; Drill Sgt. Shannon McDonald at mcdonalds@gordon.army.mil or 791- 3962.

Town survey

Log on to the Garrison's Homepage and take the town hall meeting survey.

It takes just a few minutes to complete and will provide invaluable information in scheduling the next meeting in March. Your suggestions and comments are needed.

Go to <http://www.gordon.army.mil/garrfp/default.htm>.

EWC scholarships

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives' Club Scholarship Applications will be in the counselor's office at all area high schools by **Tuesday** and available to all ID card holders. Deadline for submission is **April 30**.

The EWC extends sincere thanks to the Sergeants Major Association for the monetary donation to the scholarship fund.

For more information concerning scholarships, call Shirley Johnson at 791-7656 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

Education opportunity

The University of Maryland University College will provide resident graduate courses at Fort Gordon. Completion of the program results in six graduate credits toward several Information Technology masters' degree programs offered by UMUC. The next iteration of the Information Technology Graduate Seminar is **March 15 – May 17** with registration on going until **March 7**.

This program is open to all Fort Gordon personnel (military permanent party and students, civilians, and family members) and is supported by tuition assistance for military members. DoD Civilians in CP34 may request funding to pay for the seminars.

For more information or to register, call Maj. Alan Makowsky at 791-2267 or alan.makowsky@us.army.mil. Those civilians in CP34 should contact their Career Program Manager for information about funding.

AER

The Army Emergency Relief Campaign Kick Off and training for 2003 is scheduled for **March 3** in Olmstead Hall from 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. All unit project officers should plan to attend. AER Campaign brochures and allotment forms will be distributed to brigade and battalion level

project officers at the training.

The points of contact for the AER Fund Campaign 2003 are Diane Sarber at 791-4544, or Joann Brassell 791-7878.

AER scholarships

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund, administered by Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief, helps Army families with the costs of post secondary, undergraduate level education, vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for their dependent children.

Funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, supplies and room/board. Applicants must be dependent children, step-children, or legally adopted children of Army soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or retirement.

Applicants must also be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, unmarried for the entire academic year, and under the age of 22 years on June 11, 2003.

Applications are available online by accessing the Army Community Service website www.gordon.army.mil/acs and clicking on the link to AER Education Program. Completed applications with all supporting documentation must be mailed to AER Headquarters and postmarked not later than the deadline of **March 3**.

For more information, call ACS at 791-3579.

Volunteers needed

The Special Olympics are held here on the installation annually and normally supported primarily by the 93rd Signal Brigade. This year the garrison commander is asking for volunteers to step forward and support this event, because of the 93rd's deployment. The number of volunteers needed is three

hundred but all that volunteer will be afforded the opportunity to help.

The games will be held on lower Barton Field (vicinity of the quarter mile track) on **March 26**, beginning at 10 a.m. The rain date will be **March 27**.

For more information or to volunteer, call Master Sgt. John Boutte at 791-9841.

CMU registration

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration. Registration for classes starting in March will be held **Feb. 24 – March 14**.

For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Bldg. 21606, Barnes Avenue.

FCC training

The Family Child Care Program will have a training class **April 14** in building 45400. The registration dates to sign up will be **March 17- 21** from 9:30 a.m. - noon in Building 45400 on 45th Street.

For more information, call 791-3993/4440.

Dinner theatre

Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents "When the Reaper Calls." It's a comedy- thriller that pledges to keep you tense with anticipation while tickling your funny bone at the same time. Show dates are **tonight, Saturday, Feb. 27, 28 and March 1**.

For more information, call the box office at 793-8552 or reserve tickets on-line www.fortgordon.com.

The School Yard

Richmond County Testing Schedule:

March 10-14: Richmond County elementary and middle school students will begin standardized testing.

March 11-17: Makeup testing dates

Columbia County Testing Schedule:

March 4: High school writing test

March 11-21: Standardized testing for grades 3, 5 and 8.

March 24-28: High School Graduation Test

Fort Gordon REPORT

The newest edition of the "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **Feb. 24** and includes the following stories:

- Tactical Message System at Fort Gordon
- RTS Med. Trains British Soldiers
- 224th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek

The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" will premiere **March 3**.

You can catch the latest "Fort Gordon Report" on *Comcast Cable Channel 66* on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training and Support Center.

Watch the "Fort Gordon Report" for the stories that matter in your community and throughout your Army!

‘Caring from the heart’

Vivian J. Swihart
Patient Representative Officer

The following are the names of the Eisenhower Army Medical Center staff members, employees and volunteers who have been complimented by patients, their family members and other customers.

Our heartfelt thanks to the community that we serve for taking note and complimenting our staff. Thanks to the following individuals for a job well done!

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Family Practice Clinic – **Maj. Michael Friedman, residency director, Capt. Jose Cilliani, Capt. Raul Villalon, Capt. Kevin Pettus**
Internal Medicine Clinic – **Dr. Lisa Counsell, Dr. David Bookstaver, Pharm.D.**

Optometry Service – **Col. Luther Solverson, chief**
TMC #3/Physical Exam Section – **June Smith**
Occupational Health - **Willie Mae Peterson, Maria DelValle, Carolyn Irby**
Primary Care Clinic – **Dr. Terry Andrews, Dr. Charles Youmans, Susan Maples,**

P.A., Claude Lett, P.A., Bernice Powell, Brenda Perry
Emergency Medicine Service – **Dr. Lisa Sanders**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Urology Service – **Maj. Douglas Soderdahl, chief, Maj. Karen Smith**
Audiology Service – **Diane Brady**

General Surgery Service – **Lt. Col. Mark Ziemba, Lt. Col. Eric Adams, Maj. James Frizzi, Capt. Todd Ruiter**
Orthopedic Service – **Lt. Col. Paul Cutting, chief, Lt. Col. Scott Duffin, asst. chief, Lt. Col. Christopher Kim, Maj. Charles Hope, Maj. Douglas Pahl, Maj. Randall Meredith, Brenda Best, Tonya Wilson**
Plastic Surgery Service – **Col Cornelius James, chief, Evon Griffin**
Cardio/Thoracic Service – **Maj. Dennis Nichols**

LOGISTICS DIVISION
Medical Maintenance – **Jeffery Wittler**

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Physical Medicine Service –

Capt. Hwei Lin, chief, Tonya Price
Speech Pathology Service – **Chris Sechler**

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY

Outpatient Pharmacy – **Spc. Michael Harper, Lynda Long**

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE
Fisher House – **Francisco Cruz, director**

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE – **Col. Wayne Honeycutt, chief**
Endocrinology Service – **Lt. Col. Lloyd Hancock, chief, Maj. Joseph Wood**
Allergy Service – **Col. Nicholas Battafarano, chief**
Cardiology Service – **Maj. Susan Noe, chief, Maj. Marisa Orgera**
Oncology Service – **Dr. Raj Gupta**

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY – **Lt. Col. Richard Knight**
Mammogram Service – **Lillie Ware**
Ultrasound Service – **Toyake Crawley**

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING – **Col. Margarita**

Aponte, DCN
Ward 5E – **Georgia Johnson**
Ward 9E – **Capt. Perry Ruiz, Michelle Johnson**
91C Course – **Sgt. 1st Class John Knott**
SICU – **William Perkins, Gwendolyn Bonner**

OFFICE OF THE DCCS
Clinical Support Division, Patient Representative Office – **Vivian Swihart, chief, Lola Nale, Sgt. Kenneth Schanda, Margie Powell, Red Cross volunteer**

Staff of Nursing
Staff of 5E
Staff of 9E
Staff of ER
Staff of Endoscopy Nursing
Staff of Oncology/Hematology
Staff of Gastroenterology
Staff of PCC Front Desk
Staff of Cardio-Thoracic
Staff of Brace Shop
Staff of Family Practice
Staff of General Surgery

Editor’s note: *This information is for the month of December 2002.*

Some thoughts on Christian marriage

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John W. Ellis III
*Senior Chaplain Clinician
Eisenhower Army Medical Center*

After conducting a Marriage Enrichment Retreat I wanted to share some of the concepts taught at the retreat. These concepts are important when we look at our society and see the state of marriage. The following trends are prevalent in our culture:

- Ever-rising divorce rates
- The growing number of single-parent homes caused by divorce
- High rates of marital infidelity
- Family violence on the rise
- More people deciding not to marry, but choosing to just live together

Christian marriages battle the trends and offer hope in the midst of a changing society. They are like ships caught in a storm, but remembering and practicing a few biblical principles will allow us to arrive safely.

The first biblical principle in a Christian marriage is **Unconditional Love** (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Unconditional love is more than romantic love. Romantic love says that I will love you if you love me. Romantic love says that I will love you if I feel loving. There is no element of commitment in romantic love. Unconditional love says that I love you even though you are not perfect. It says I love you regardless of how I feel.

Unconditional love comes from the commitment that the couple has made toward one another. Neither partner takes advantage of

the other’s unconditional acceptance.

Second, there needs to be a true spirit of **Forgiveness**. Forgiveness allows us to move past the hurts and failures to strengthen our relationships. It focuses on restoring relationships, not getting even with the other partner (Romans 12:17-21). Forgiveness is not cheap. True forgiveness holds one another accountable for their actions. When getting forgiveness, the offending partner has the responsibility to change their behavior. A change in behavior always follows true confession and repentance. Our victory lies in looking toward the future.

Third, we are to provide **Comfort** to our partners. We are to provide a “safe haven” to our mates when life’s storms cause trials and tribulations. Being effective listeners can provide this “safe haven.” We need to listen for content and feelings.

This type of listening allows a person to feel understood. It also communicates that I care for you. “I told you so” is not a good response to make in these situations. It is heard as a judgement and not comfort. As a matter of fact, we do not always need to respond with a solution. Sometimes the other partner just wants to be understood!

Finally, our marriages need to have the element of **Hope**. This will happen when we focus on the victories in our relationship. Often relationships grow when we face or weather a storm together; it is then that we need to celebrate the success!

When the storm clouds have passed and the sun shines again, we need to remember that the sun was always there!

Army Nurse Corps Celebrates 102nd Anniversary at EAMC

Kathleen Haskell
Special to The Signal

Eisenhower Army Medical Center nurses paused to pay special recognition to their heritage during a ceremony held Feb. 7 at the medical center.

“We took this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of nurse leaders from the past, and those presently working diligently to forge the way for the future of the corps,” said Department of Nursing Joint Commission Staff Officer Col. Gwendolyn Fryer.

“This year’s theme was “Our Plate is Full,” heralding the significance of the past, current and future challenges, accomplishments and goals of the corps and its elite members,” she continued.

The ceremony’s guest speaker, Audrey N. Schoomaker, wife of Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, EAMC’s commanding general, emphasized this year’s theme by capturing the many responsibilities, challenges, accomplishments and “faces” of Army nurses, both collectively and individually.

“The Army Nurse Corps effectively handles the plates that are full and cups that are running over,” stated Schoomaker, also a former Army nurse officer.

The many attendees supporting the celebration represented Army nurse officers on active duty, retirees, those with prior service and others now serving as part of the Army Reserves or National Guard. Retirees attending the celebration included retired Col. Vera Nolfe Anderson, a former chief nurse from 1981-1983, present to participate in the cake cutting ceremony as the senior Army nurse officer, with 2nd Lt. Tamara Murray, the most junior nurse officer.

In addition, retired Col. Nancy Nooney, also a former chief nurse, assisted in the distribution of gifts to all Army Nurse officers as the next senior officer, passing a tribute to the future of the Corps through 2nd Lt. Lakisha Allen, 2nd Lt. Rose Tracee and other assembled junior

officers.

Congress passed the Reorganization Act appointing nurses to the regular Army on Feb. 2, 1901, and since then the month of February has been set aside to celebrate the official establishment of the

Army Nurse Corps.

The Deputy Commander for Nursing Col. Margarita Aponte attributes the recognition and actual establishment of the Army Nurse Corps to a physician, Dr. Anita Newcomb-McGhee, who served as

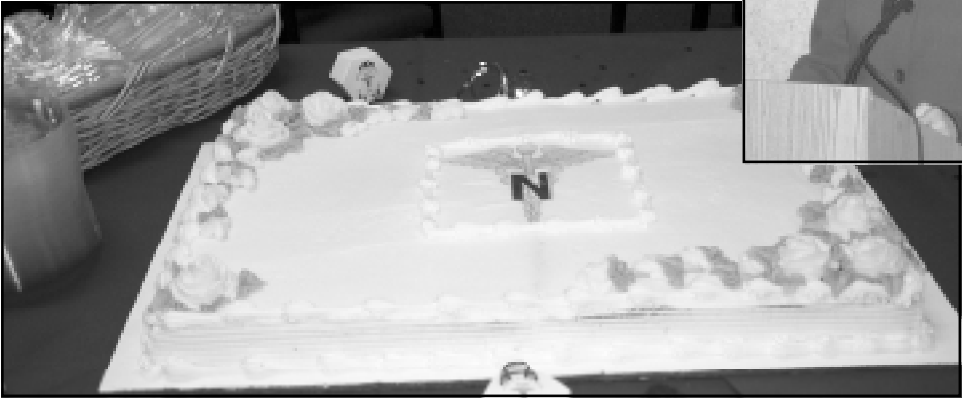
the surgeon general during that same time.

Newcomb-McGhee aggressively sought to recruit/attract nurses to the Army, and was instrumental in transitioning the nurses into the regular Army.



Photos by Jennifer Chipman

(Above) Eisenhower Army Medical Center celebrated the Army Nurse Corps 102nd anniversary. (Right) Audrey Schoomaker was the guest speaker. (Below) A cake cutting for the ANC was a part of the celebration.



Marriage Workshop offered Tuesday

The Marriage Workshop entitled “More Than I’ve Ever Wanted in a Marriage” is a day of ambiance and romance with an educational swing. The workshop focuses on communication for couples and families, utilizing materials from John Gottan, Ph.D., and the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program. Chaplain (Maj.) Richard J. Bendorf, director, Chaplain Family Life Center, facilitates this interesting one-day workshop.

The workshop is FREE. Come join us for the workshop and lunch (pay as you go through the lunch line).

Make a date with us:

Tuesday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Magnolia Room
Gordon Club

For more information and RSVP by today, call 791-3579.
Sponsored by the Army Community Service and the Chaplain Family Life Center.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

AER Golf Tournament

The 15th Signal Brigade is sponsoring a four-person scramble golf tournament **March 14** to benefit AER. The tournament includes a lunch buffet.

The cost of entry is \$20 for all Gordon Lakes Golf Course members and \$30 for all others.

Check-in starts at 10:30 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. lunch. The shotgun start will be at 12:30 p.m.

Golfers can sign up for the tournament by calling Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Millward at 791-5913, or reaching him via e-mail at millwart@gordon.army.mil. Sign-ups run through noon on **March 11**.

Gordon Lanes hosting customer appreciation day

The Gordon Lanes bowling center will be hosting a customer appreciation day **today** from noon to 5 p.m. at the lanes on post.

The event, which is open to the public, will feature free bowling and free food, and will celebrate the opening of the new bowling store, meeting and party rooms next door to the lanes.

GNC Fun Run

GNC will hold a 5K Fun Run on **March 29**, starting at Gym 1 at 8 a.m.

Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the top three race finishers, with first, second and third place medals also awarded in eight age groups.

Participants will also receive a free Fun Run T-shirt and nutritional snacks following the race.

There is a \$5 entry fee to enter the race. To pre-register for the race, stop by Gym 6 and contact manager Millie Brown between 6 a.m. and 12 p.m. beginning **March 10**.

For more information, call 791-6872 or 791-6099.

Masters badge lottery

A limited number of badges for this year's Masters golf tournament in Augusta will be awarded through a lottery on post. Only active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Gordon may enter the lottery.

To enter the lottery register between **March 3** and **26** between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in Room 260 of Darling Hall, Monday through Friday. An active duty military ID card must be presented to enter the lottery.

If one wins the lottery, the badges can be purchased for \$32. The badges are for limited one-day use only and are non-transferrable. The badges are for the tournament dates **April 10** to **13**.

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

Flipping out!

Kids learn gymnastics skills on post

Spc. Ryan Matson
Sports editor

About 50 children, between the ages of 3 to 15 have found some cool bars to hang around. Parallel bars, that is.

The children participate in a gymnastics program taught here on post by Rae Izzo, who also teaches physical education at Grovetown Elementary.

"I think the program builds a lot of self esteem and gives them a way to find out what they can do," Izzo, who has taught the class for 11 years, said. "I'm not pushing them to compete, but I encourage them to challenge themselves to do exercises they didn't believe they could do."

Izzo said she had been interested in gymnastics and dancing since she was a young child, and an Army dependent herself.

"I remember moving around a lot and always wanting to do gymnastics and dancing and stuff, but it was always off-post," Izzo said. She said her parents always went the extra mile to make sure she could follow her interests, even if it required them to drive her somewhere off-post. Izzo said one of the big advantages of her class is that parents can rest assured their children are safe and nearby, and that the class is also a lot less expensive than gymnastics instruction classes downtown.

The class teaches kids

how to use single and parallel bars, the balance beam, the vault and floor exercises. Izzo said the young children, ages 3 to 6, also learn some fundamental ballet and creative movement.

"I like to let them to be creative," Izzo said. "They also learn through gymnastics that they can control their body (such as sitting still in class), learn the rules of gymnastics, and that safety comes first."

Though the boys and girls who participate in the gymnastics program don't enter programs as a Fort Gordon team, in the past they have put on performances demonstrating the skills they've acquired in the program.

"In years past, we've put on shows and had parent's and visitor day performances," Izzo said. "We just moved the program to Gym 1, so we hope to do that again in the future."

The gymnastics currently meets every Tuesday and Thursday at Gym 1 on post, although Izzo said during the summer months it will move to a mini-camp format. She said interested children can join at any time throughout the year, provided they are registered with Central Registration.

The cost of entering the class is \$16 per month for children ages 3 to 6 years old, and \$24 a month for children 7 and up.

For more information, call Izzo at 364-4409.



AUSA Bowl-a-thon coming to Gordon Lanes

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The Augusta/Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army is hosting their annual Bowl-a-thon to raise money for the organization. The tournament will take place Feb. 28, 29 and March 1 at Gordon Lanes on post.

"I have never had a dissatisfied bowler who attended this event," Bob Snead, one of the event's main organizers, said. "It's a really good event for young advanced individual training soldiers. It gives them something to do."

Last year, about 150 bowlers participated in the tournament to raise a total of \$3,500, Snead said. He said the money goes to AUSA, which in turn donates the money to soldiers' causes and concerns.

The tournament will be made up of teams of five bowlers, Snead said. The cost of a team to enter is a minimum of \$25, which covers the cost of shoes, lane use, three games of bowling, a free game of bowling at the lanes in the future, a tournament T-shirt, a "goodie-bag" and eligibility for door prizes. Teams are encouraged to raise as much money as possible for the cause, Snead said, since the \$25 minimum only covers the cost of these items, but does not raise any money for the tournament.

Teams can be made up of any groups - families, friends, coworkers etc. Snead said each team will have a captain.

There will be five times in which teams can bowl their three games - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 28, noon and 2:30 p.m. March 1, and 1 p.m. on March 2. Grand prizes will be awarded to the bowler scoring the highest score over the three rounds, and to the individual who raises the most money.

Additionally, runner-up prizes will be awarded to the bowlers with the second highest score, and team member with the second highest total amount of money raised. AUSA will also present a variety of prizes to registered bowlers, Snead said.

"Everyone will get a prize," Snead said.

For more information on the tournament and registration, call Snead at 791-6444.

2003 Soccer Statistics

518	4-0
D-369	3-0
CO D MARINES	3-0-1
B-447	3-1-1
A-67	2-1
C-551	2-2
DDEAMC	1-1-1
B-442	1-1-2
35MP	2-2
31IS	1-2-1
B-67	1-2
B-73	1-3
HQ/A-551	0-3-1
B-369	0-3-1
338	0-3

Note: With the deployment of the 63rd Signal Battalion earlier this week, the basketball standings will be reconfigured in the upcoming weeks.

2003 Basketball Statistics

RED DIVISION		GREEN DIVISION	
1st - 235	14-0	1st - B-551	17-1
2nd - HHC-447	13-0	2nd - B-73	14-4
3rd - HHC-67	9-3	3rd - D-447	10-4
4th - 518	9-4	4th - C-369	12-5
5th - HHC-93	9-6	5th - E-369	10-6
6th - B-67	6-6	6th - C-447	6-11
7th - A-67	5-9	7th - E-447	5-12
8th - C-67	3-10		

WHITE DIVISION		WOMEN'S DIVISION	
1st - HQ/A-551	14-2	1st - USAG	13-0
2nd - B-EAMC	12-3	2nd - HQ/A-442	13-2
3rd - DENTAC	12-4	3rd - GRSOC	11-3
4th - 252	10-6	4th - D447	12-4
5th - NMCRC	9-7	5th - DDEAMC	11-5
6th - ANCOC	8-7	6th - E-369	7-9
7th - HHD-116	7-9		
8th - 31IS (2)	4-12		

BLUE DIVISION		MORNING DIVISION	
1st - BNCOC	15-0	1st - D-447	9-1
2nd - 249	12-2	2nd - C-369	7-3
3rd - USAG	13-4	3rd - C-447	9-4
4th - NSGA	11-4	4th - E-447	6-3
5th - HQ-A-442	8-7	5th - B-447	6-5
6th - 338	5-8	6th - E-369	5-6
7th - 31IS	5-9	7th - B-551	4-7
8th - A-447	3-11	8th - D-551	2-8
9th - HHC-206	3-12		

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m.

Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free.

For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

February 21 - 23
Friday - Two Weeks Notice (PG-13)
Saturday - Lord of the Rings (PG-13)
Late show - Antwone Fisher (PG-13)
Sunday - The Wild Thornberries (PG)

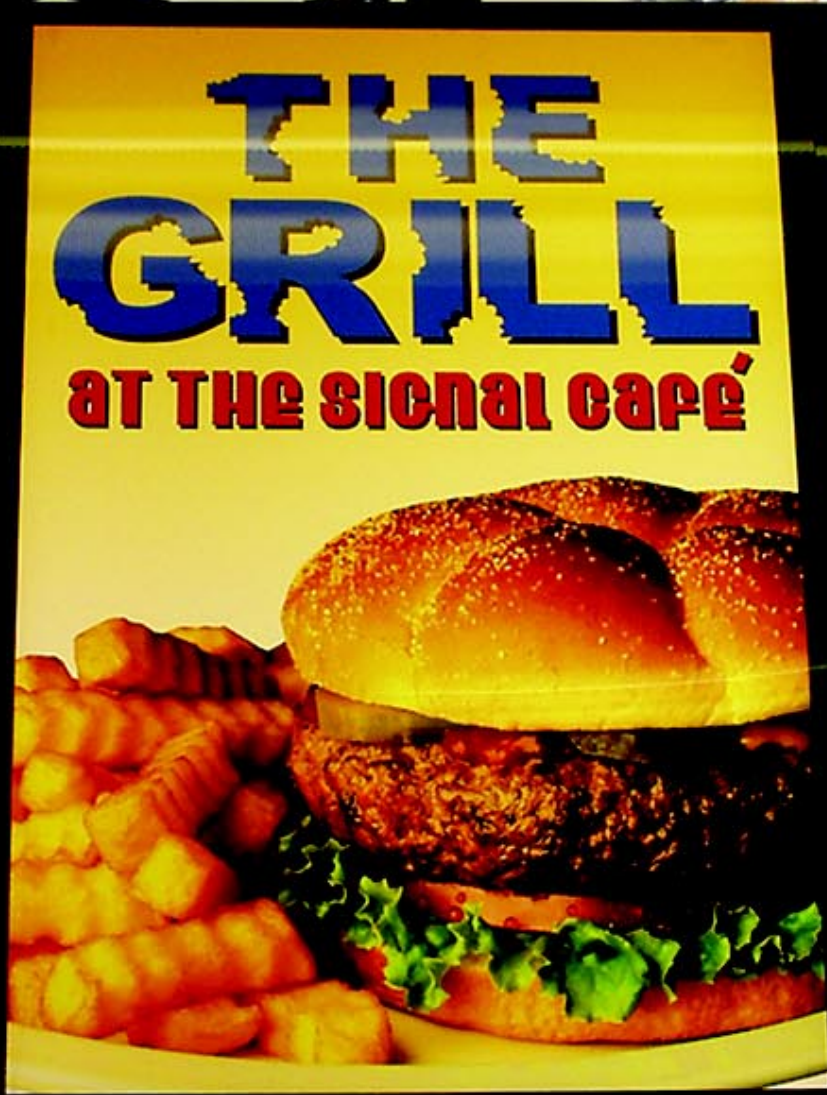
Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Spectrum

SERVING UP SMILES SIGNAL CAFE REOPENS



THE GRILL AT THE SIGNAL CAFÉ	
Breakfast Specials	
Fast.....	4.25
gs, Bacon or Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, sh Browns	
pecial.....	2.95
ts, Bacon or Sausage, Grits or wns, Toast	
fast Buffet.....	5.95
Breakfast Sides	
.....	1.95
.....	1.25
.....	.80
.....	1.25
Beverages	
.....	1.00
.....	1.00
.....	1.25
.....	1.00
S.....	1.00
.....	1.25
.....	.25



THE GRILL AT THE SIGNAL CAFÉ	
Panini Grill Special-Wraps	
Panini Sandwiches are Prepared on Spinach, Tomato Basil, or 1	
Turkey Wrap.....	
Club Wrap.....	
Ham Wrap.....	
The Eagle.....	
The Birdie.....	
Rueben.....	
Baked Potato Bar	
Potato, Sour Cream, Butter.....	
The Works.....	
Daily Hot Lunch Specials	
Meat, Vegetables, Starch, Roll.....	
Side Items	
Steak Fries.....	
Potato Chips.....	
Vegetable or Starch.....	
Extra Cheese.....	

